

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 33-56 and 153-178 are pending in this Application. Claims 33-56 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 153-178 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 179-214 have been added. Thus, Claims 179-214 are now pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to reinstate, without prejudice, any claims withdrawn or cancelled in this Application or any subsequent Application claiming the priority hereof.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 33-56 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0044743 ("McKinley") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,666 ("Tobin").

On April 7, 2005, Examiner McAllister conducted a personal interview with Applicant and Applicant's counsel. Applicants wish to express their appreciation to Examiner McAllister for extending his assistance in this regard. A copy of the Interview Summary is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

During the interview, the substance of the invention, proposed claim, as well as the McKinley, Tobin and Letstalk.com references, as viewed with respect to the proposed claim, were discussed. Pending further review, the Examiner indicated that the McKinley in view of Tobin reference would not apply to the new claim, but that Letstalk.com reference might read on the claim. In this regard, it appears that Letstalk.com neither teaches nor suggests a plurality of offering categories (e.g., utilities, cable, internet, telephone, etc. product or services) available to

a particular geographic location. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith new Claims 179-214 which, in Applicant's view, are patentability distinct in view of the prior art considered to date.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicant may have at times referred to claim limitations in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the prior art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and early and favorable allowance of the subject application. Applicants further request the courtesy of a telephone interview with the Examiner regarding this Response at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Appl. No.: 09/803,545

Amdt. Dated: May 3, 2005

Reply to Official Action of November 3, 2004

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment related to this submission to Deposit Account Number 50-0979.

Respectfully submitted,

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